

WEDNESDAY June 17, 2015



AGREEMENT **in Principle** **REACHED**

Between the Carlson
Group and the Aruba
Growth Foundation





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YESTERDAY morning, Minister Otmar Oduber gave the pleasant news that the Carlson Group took the decision to sit with the Aruba Growth Foundation to discuss the possibilities to reach a final decision about the Radisson Hotel. The Minister made very clear to all the involved parties, that the position of the Government about this matter is based on the general interest, and an 'All Inclusive' at the Radisson is not desired.

For the last two weeks, all the involved parties were in meetings to discuss what the next steps are, that will be taken towards the sale of the Radisson Hotel.

On Monday evening, Minister Oduber was informed that the Carlson Group and the Aruba Growth Foundation reached an agreement in principle which was also signed.

For this reason, a letter, sustained by all the parties that are involved in the court case, was sent to the Judge with an appeal to postpone the verdict which should take place today. They agreed that they want to postpone until the 23rd of July, giving all the parties the possibilities to reach a definite agreement during this week.

Minister Oduber said: 'This surely brings a temporary peacefulness for the community. This shows the willingness of all the parties to serve the general interest of Aruba. When you are a partner that respects others, you will also give space to discussions for the benefit of the community of Aruba.'

The Minister expressed that even though he knows that this is a private transaction, where the Government of Aruba has nothing to say in this matter, however the firm position that the Government has taken towards the regulations about 'All Inclusive', got the attention of all the involved parties.

Minister Otmar Oduber concluded saying:

"Today we can announce that a petition of prolongation has been sent to the Judge and that during the next days a definite solution will be reached between the Aruba Growth Foundation and the Carlson Group."

Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino celebrated 'Global Day of DISCOVERY'



ORANJESTAD – June – Thursday June 11th, Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino celebrated 'Global Day of Discovery' with a special activity for its guests. On this particular day, 160 Renaissance Hotels around the world (in more than 40 countries) dedicate the day to inspire discovery through exclusive events on and off property. This year, the resort organized 'Flamingle' which is a scavenger hunt that gave the guests the opportunity to win great prizes by being part of an educational tour in Oranjestad. "The idea was to discover our downtown and discover the Aruban culture and history", according to Zugheila Lindeborgh of the Renaissance Aruba Resort.

The guests started at Wilhelmina Park and while walking and following instructions, they also received information about Aruban history. Amongst the visited locations were; Willem III Tower, Fort Zoutman, and the Archeological Museum. Besides this, the guests also received information about all they encountered along the route; including buildings, statues, and plazas. In order to test their knowledge, the

guests had to later on fill in questionnaires. During the 'discovery tour', the guests were accompanied by public figure Caribbean King, Mr. Christian Bendek, and Aruban Social Media Queen, Mrs. Julie Julie. It was fascinating to see their enthusiasm. After the tour, the guests enjoyed a 'Happy Hour' and some delicious 'Flamingle' themed cocktails at Renaissance Blue Bar. Flamingo-tails, Flocktails and Pinkaritas cocktails were among great favorites!

A special thanks to Rietveld Academy of Arts, Mr. Glen Gordijn, and Mrs. Glenda Heyliger for their guidance during the arts and craft activity. Also thanks to Pastechi House and Cerbes Balashi for their contribution to 'Global Day of Discovery'. The idea is to engage the guests in activities, and for that reason, Renaissance Aruba Resort is already preparing to celebrate the International Flamingo Day on June 23rd, 2015.

In the pictures are an impression of 'Flamingle' organized by Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino on 'Global Day of Discovery'.



AMAZONAS

Live the Experience!



NICKOLAS Cabral dos Anjos, works for the Government of the Amazonas as the Marketing Director of the Official Tourism Board. His main mission in Aruba is to not only promote the State of the Amazonas, but also to strengthen the bonds between Manaus and Aruba. InselAir has started recently with flights twice a week between both countries. So the people of the Amazonas and Aruba can now be connected.

The Amazonas is not only the biggest state of Brazil but of the World. It is bigger than New York. The Amazonas is bordered by Roraima, Pará, Mato Grosso, Rondônia, Acre, Peru, Colombia and Venezuela. This state is situated in the northwest of this South American country. As its name implies, this state is almost entirely covered by the Amazon

Rainforest and enjoys the splendor of the massive Amazon River, which winds its way through Brazil, bringing with it an array of species from the plant and animal kingdoms. In addition, this area is notable for being the home of Brazil's highest mountain, Pico da Neblina, which is 2 994 meters, or 9 823 feet, above sea level.

Today, the capital city of Amazonas is Manaus. This was once a very rich city and was, at one stage, more advanced than the likes of London, England. Once the rubber rush was over, though, this epicenter became somewhat neglected and abandoned. Still, it is home to approximately 17 million people today, 3.5 Millions are from Manaus.

Amazonas is subtropical, meaning that it is hot and humid. These conditions are experienced all year round, with no dry season.

The Amazonas is a big example to the world in Biodiversity being a sustainable State, having more than 95 % of their forest protected by the State Laws that prohibit people from cutting trees, taking minerals from the soil and destroying the forest. The Amazonas is investing in Tourism by establishing factories to maintain the jungles.

This is not the first time that Mr. Nickolas is visiting Aruba. His first visit to the island was 6 years ago in an attempt to reach an agreement with the Government of Aruba to establish flights between the countries. "But we could not reach a satisfactory understanding at that time. Now, with InselAir, we hope to keep this program going and maybe one day we can even have flights between the Amazonas and Aruba on a daily basis", concluded Mr. Nickolas.





5 Years of VISION, Mission and Innovation

MONDAY evening, the Prime Minister of Aruba, Mr. Mike Eman traveled to Curacao for a Conference of the Dutch Countries.

Those that were present at this conference were Vice Prime Minister of Curacao, Etienne van der Horst; Prime Minister of Saint Marten, Marcel Gumbs; Minister Ronald Plasterk of Holland and the Prime Minister of Aruba, Mike Eman.

The topics on agenda were: Coercion in the Kingdom, Dispute Settlement, Health Care, Economic Cooperation in the Kingdom, Children's Right and small islands with big challenges.

These are topics that Aruba has worked on for the last 5 years. Ideas, visions and innovative plans of the actual Government are reaching the whole world.

Agenda of Sustainability

Aruba is known as the island that is leading in the Kingdom in innovation. Many ideas of the Government enjoy international admiration. In 2009, the Cabinet of Mike Eman introduced an agenda of sustainability to make Aruba fully independent of fossil petroleum by the year 2020.

Additional Values in the Kingdom

The Cabinet Mike Eman I focused greatly on the Additional Values in the Kingdom and how to make this possible. 5 years ago this was not possible. The relation of the Dutch Kingdom was under much pressure.

Now even Holland realizes and accepts the additional value in the Kingdom. Proofs of this are the commercial mission to Brazil and OAS in Panama where Eman guided the Dutch

delegation and the lobbying to obtain a seat in the United Nations.

Hub

5 years ago, the Government of Aruba introduced the idea to use Aruba as a hub to benefit of the economic growth of Latin-America. Today more and more Dutch businesses choose Aruba as hub for their commercial business with Latin-America.

Preclearance

5 years ago, the Government expressed a vision to have a preclearance for passengers from Aruba to Holland. Today, the KLM, Schiphol and Holland are partners with Aruba in this vision.

Dispute Settlement

5 years ago, the Government of Aruba fought for the so called 'Dispute Settlement' for the Kingdom. Until

a few weeks ago, it seemed that no settlement will be possible. But after the IPKO conferences last month in Holland, the Dispute Settlement will be introduced.

Health Care

Another point of discussion during the conference is the cooperation in the Kingdom on Health Care. Aruba had recently organized the Health Care Conference Aruba where all the representatives on the health care field of the Kingdom participated and agreements were established for a better health care system.

Aruba has shown on more than one occasion that we are working on an innovative and diligent way, and though many times the idea, vision or plans don't seem to be feasible, after much insisting they became fruitful.

Lindsay Geerman, the 8th graduate of the University of Aruba from the college of Social Work and Development

ON Thursday, April 30th 2015, Lindsay Geerman was the eighth student to graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Development (SW&D) in the Faculty of Arts and Science at the University of Aruba. The ceremony was attended by family, friends, and professionals who work in the area of mental health and addiction in Aruba.

Lindsay pursued her internship at PAAZ, SPD, FMAA and at the Medical Social Work Department at Dr. Horacio Hospital. Consequently, she developed a passion for mental health and addiction through these internships and chose as her thesis topic: "Mental health services and the needs of the

dually diagnosed participants in Aruba."

Lindsay applied a mixed method approach collecting quantitative and qualitative data from participants who have been dually diagnosed, as well as professionals from FMAA and SPD through social work professionals. According to Lindsay, her research concludes that the dually diagnosed are aware and satisfied with the services available in Aruba. Meanwhile, the professionals in the field do not feel the same. The dually diagnosed participants believe that there is a need for an institution to treat the dually diagnosed. However, the professionals



feel that there is a need to first evaluate existing services and improve interagency collaboration.

Given the findings, two of the many recommendations Lindsay posed include the re-establishment of the bed, bath, and bread services, and the introduction of a Dual Diagnosis Collaboration Model (DDC-Model). According to Lindsay, this DDC Model

m a k e s provisions for a social worker to be employed as the case manager with responsibility to link the dual diagnosed participant to the services required.

Clothed with the SW&D graduate profile, Lindsay is challenged to be the heart and voice of people with mental health conditions, especially for the dually diagnosed in Aruba.



Meet Jennifer AZZATO



DURING the month of June, Aruba will have the pleasure of meeting the singer and songwriter Jennifer Azzato. She is the wife of the famous ex pro-wrestler Carmin Azzato, better known as "The Demolition". For Jennifer, music has been a lifelong companion, but it wasn't until she picked up a guitar at age 13 that her passion met her purpose. Soon after, she was invited to contribute in vocal sessions for Detroit-based producer/songwriter/mixer Grant Mohrman (Celldweller, Blue Stahli, Tyrone Wells, and Filter).

As time passed, whilst relentlessly writing and refining her craft, she forged a path for the present-day discovery of her identity as an artist. In early 2014, Jennifer reunited with producer/songwriter Shane D. Grush (Wilson, No Resolve, Jettared). The result: "On Fire," her debut single, which released worldwide in early 2015.

With soaring vocals and haunting melodies, Azzato's gritty Midwestern soul and convincing delivery set the stage for an engaging entrance into the music industry.

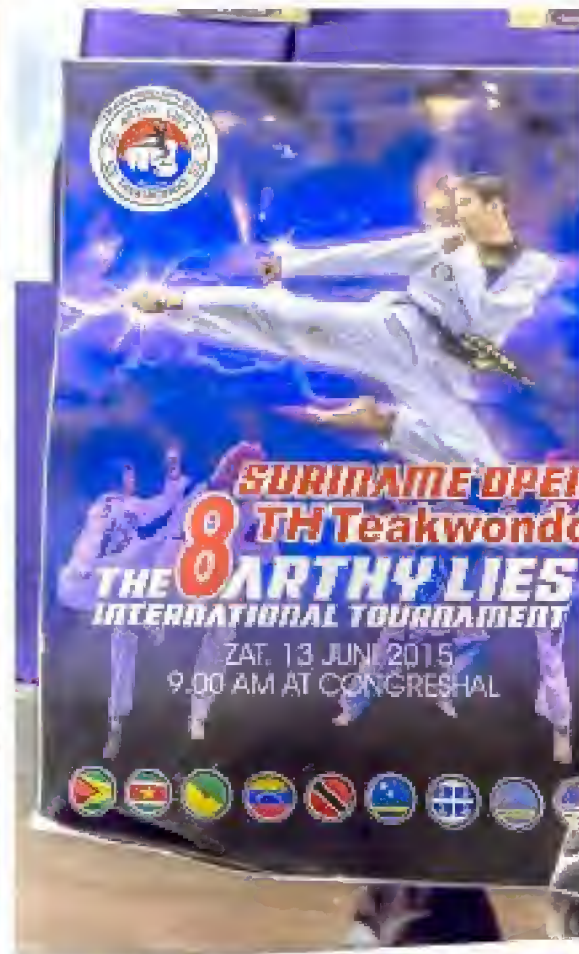
Don't miss this opportunity to meet this international artist. If you want to know more about Jennifer Azzato, visit her facebook page "Celebrations" or contact: (297) 593-6162. Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMi_6gmR3oA

USFOL **Volunteers** Continue Support of Siloam Orphanage

ON June 9, 2015, nine volunteers from the U.S. Forward Operating Location (USFOL) visited the Siloam Orphanage to deliver 100 pounds of donated goods. The volunteers devoted 3 hours clearing ground to build a soccer field, as well as interacting and playing with the children.

Siloam Orphanage provides for children with a variety of needs - from toddlers who have been abandoned, to children who have mental and physical disabilities. An activity such as this demonstrates USFOL's eagerness for community involvement and their long standing appreciation for the hospitality received from the citizens of Curaçao.





Joshua KLABÉR

Won Gold Medal in the 8th Surinam Taekwondo Open 2015

SEVERAL Taekwondo Institutes in Aruba have sent their best young athletes to the 8th Suriname Open Taekwondo 2015 to represent Aruba. Five athletes had the honor of representing their teams and country in this big sporting event. Joshua Klaber, Rasheed Lowe, and Marwin Lont represented the Brazil Taekwondo Foundation, Angelo Rodriquez represented the Tiger Taekwondo Academy, and Alex Fernandez represented the Caribbean Taekwondo Institute.

Joshua Klabér participated in the Pupil Category. He fought against Thum Vamsana from Suriname and won with a score of 7-5. His second fight was against Maris Champion of French Guyana and he won again with the score of 5-2. In the final, Joshua fought against Michael Lei of Suriname and again won the fight and achieved the first Gold Medal for Aruba.

Rasheed Lowe won the Bronze Medal and Angelo Rodriquez won a Silver Medal.

Aruba once again demonstrated that we have athletes that give their all in international competitions and bring home medals.

In this occasion, in the 8th Surinam Taekwondo Open 2015, our young athletes won 3 medals in total. We are very proud of our representatives and wish them all the best in their future athletic endeavors.





Egypt court confirms Ex-President Morsi DEATH SENTENCE

AN Egyptian court on Tuesday upheld a death sentence against ousted president Mohamed Morsi for plotting jailbreaks and attacks on police during the country's 2011 uprising.

The same court also sentenced Morsi, Egypt's first democratically elected president, to life in prison on charges of spying for the Palestinian Hamas movement, Lebanon's Shiite Hezbollah and Iran.

In a separate trial in April, Morsi had previously been sentenced to 20 years in jail on charges of inciting violence against protesters in 2012 when he was president. Then-army chief and now President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi ousted Morsi in July 2013 after mass protests calling for an end to his divisive one-year rule.

Sisi has since overseen a sweeping crackdown on Morsi's supporters, with hundreds of Islamists killed and more than 40,000 in custody, according to Human Rights Watch. Hundreds have also been sentenced to death after speedy mass trials described by the United Nations as "unprecedented in recent history".

The authorities designated Morsi's

Muslim Brotherhood as a "terrorist group" in December 2013, accusing it of being behind violence that erupted after his ouster - an accusation denied by the Islamist movement.

Tuesday's ruling upheld an initial verdict by the same court from May 16 sentencing Morsi and about 100 other defendants to death in the jailbreak case.

After the latest verdict was read, Morsi, dressed in a blue prison uniform, smiled, clenched his fists together and raised them in a sign of defiance. The United States, European Union, and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon all expressed concerns over the initial verdict.

ESPIONAGE SENTENCES UPHELD

Ties between the United States and Egypt plummeted after Morsi's ouster, with Washington freezing its annual \$1.3 billion in military aid to the country. But relations have since improved and most of the aid was unblocked late last year.

Tuesday's ruling comes after the court

consulted with Egypt's grand mufti, the official interpreter of Islamic law. Judge Shaaban el-Shamy also confirmed the death sentences against the about 100 other defendants, including the Muslim Brotherhood's spiritual guide Mohamed Badie and Qatar-based cleric Yusuf Qaradawi, who was tried in absentia. In the espionage case, Shamy confirmed earlier death sentences against 16 defendants, though only three are in

custody including Muslim Brotherhood financier Khairat al-Shater. Badie and 15 others were also sentenced to life in prison in the spy case, while three others were given seven years.

They were convicted of spying on behalf of the international Muslim Brotherhood organization and Hamas from 2005 to August 2013 "with the aim of perpetrating terror attacks in the country in order to spread chaos and topple the state".



Irony alert:

Password-storing company is HACKED

NO one's safe from hackers -- not even LastPass, a company that stores people's passwords. LastPass lets people store passwords online so they can access them all with a single master password. You're storing all your eggs in one basket. That could be a problem.

LastPass has announced that hackers broke into its computer system and got access to user email addresses, password reminders, and encrypted versions of people's master passwords. So keeping all your passwords in a single place on the Internet might not be such a great idea. LastPass said it discovered the digital break-in on Friday. It's still very early in its investigation, but if LastPass is right, hackers didn't manage to grab plain text versions of the all-powerful master passwords. Still, hackers grabbed encoded versions of people's passwords. But if your master password is simple and common, like Password123, these hackers can crack it in no time. Hackers can also easily rent out computer servers and use computing power to decipher all the others. «Attackers seem to have all they need to start brute-forcing master passwords,» said Tod Beardseley, a research manager at cybersecurity firm Rapid7.

Hackers also grabbed user password reminders. So, you're out of luck if your question is something like, «Where were you born?» Anyone can figure that out using public records or social media accounts. The potential damage here? Identity thieves might suddenly have access to important information such as email accounts, social

media, banks, hospital records -- everything. Cybersecurity experts reacted strongly to the news. For months, many of them have touted LastPass and similar services as an elegant solution to one of today's annoying problems of keeping track of multiple passwords. Keeping the same password is reckless and remembering dozens is annoying. This third option relies entirely on trusting a company to protect them. This hack reveals the flaw in that option.

«The recommended standard best practice is to use a password manager. It's the best way to deal with the tragedy of passwords,» said Jon Oberheide, an executive at cybersecurity firm Duo Security. Oberheide said he uses a password manager himself. There's a caveat, though. Oberheide doesn't use it for his critical accounts like Gmail or online banking. In a blog post, LastPass urged users to quickly change their master passwords. And as every hacked company does, it assured users «security and privacy are our top concerns here at LastPass.» David Longenecker, an independent cybersecurity expert in Texas, complained that LastPass posted a public blog post about the incident before warning its users to change their passwords.

«I would have preferred getting the PSA to change password from you, versus through the grapevine,» he wrote publicly to the company on Twitter. As always, in this latest password database theft the only people who are protected are those who set up an extra security feature: two-step authentication, which requires a text message as a second passcode.

South Korea Tests PLASMA TREATMENT to Combat MERS Outbreak



SOUTH Korea is to begin trials of an experimental plasma treatment for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (Mers) which has now killed 19 people.

The treatment - which has already proved useful for tackling other deadly diseases, including Ebola - uses blood from patients who have successfully fought off the same infection.

To date, more than 150 people in the country have been infected with Mers. The first lethal infection reached Germany on Tuesday, as a 65-year-old man succumbed to the disease in a clinic in Osnabruck.

The South Korean health ministry said two hospitals would begin the plasma treatment trials.

The outbreak in South Korea originated from a 68-year-old man who had travelled to the Middle East. He was diagnosed as the country's first Mers patient last month.

Four new cases were reported there on Tuesday, as well as three deaths. Officials emphasise that the number of new cases is decreasing, but there is still widespread fear and misinformation.

Health workers are spraying disinfectant inside karaoke rooms and other businesses, and teachers are sprinkling salt on school grounds in a misplaced attempt to protect themselves as many schools reopen this week.

There is currently no cure or vaccine that can protect people from Mers.

The disease is caused by a coronavirus from the same family as the one that triggered China's deadly 2003 outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (Sars) and is most likely spread by coughs and sneezes.



Anna Kendrick, Rebel Wilson returning for 'Pitch Perfect 3'

ANNA Kendrick and Rebel Wilson will be back for the third installment in the "Pitch Perfect" franchise. Universal has dated "Pitch Perfect 3" for Friday, July 21, 2017.

Paul Brooks of Gold Circle Entertainment and Max Handelman and Elizabeth Banks of Brownstone Productions are returning to produce.

As The Hollywood Reporter exclusively reported, Kay Cannon, who wrote the first two installments, is in talks to write the third film. It's unclear whether Banks will return to the director's chair.

"Pitch Perfect 2," directed by Banks, opened in May to strong success at the box office, taking in \$259.7

million worldwide to date. The first installment in the acapella franchise earned \$115.4 million worldwide. The series stars Kendrick, Wilson and Brittany Snow, and the second film added Hailee Steinfeld as an important new member of the group.

The only other film currently slated for release on July 21, 2017 is an untitled DreamWorks animation project.

Kendrick, who plays Beca (one of the leaders of the Bellas), has "The Accountant" with Ben Affleck, Mr. Right with Sam Rockwell and Fox Searchlight's Table



19 coming up. She's repped by CAA and Morris Yom.

Wilson's upcoming projects include spy spoof "Grimsby" and ensemble film "How to Be Single." She's repped by WME. Kendrick confirmed the news in a photo posted on her social media accounts simply captioned, "Happening #3."



DONALD Trump is finally taking the plunge. The real estate mogul and TV reality star launched his presidential campaign Tuesday, ending more than two decades of persistent flirtation with the idea of running for the Oval Office.

"So, ladies and gentlemen, I am officially running for president of the United States, and we are going to make our country great again," Trump told the crowd, in a lengthy and meandering speech that hit on his signature issues like currency manipulation from China and job creation, as well as taking shots at the president and his competitors on the Republican side. "Sadly the American dream is dead," Trump said at the end of his speech, promising to bring it back to life with his run.

Just over four years after he came closer than ever to launching a campaign before bowing out, Trump made his announcement at the lavish Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue in New York, laying out a vision to match his incoming campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again." The 68-story tower venue Trump used Tuesday is more than just the backdrop to Trump's presidential announcement, instead becoming a physical embodiment of what Trump is bringing to the table and the challenges he'll face as he formally enters politics.

Trump has already billed himself as the "most successful person ever to run for the presidency, by far," pointing out even that he owns a "Gucci store that's worth more than Romney."

That Gucci store won't be far as Trump makes his announcement -- it's located in the lobby of the Trump Tower.

But Trump isn't likely to try and shy away from the out-of-reach luxury and opulence that makes up his

day-to-day lifestyle.

Instead, he'll flaunt his wealth and success in business as a centerpiece of his presidential platform. And on Tuesday he will disclose his financial assets, trumpeting a whopping \$9 billion net worth, according to the Washington Post. Trump's net worth was previously estimated at roughly \$4 billion.

The Trump Tower certainly won't disappoint in embodying that astronomical financial success, but the structure that was also home to the famous boardroom featured in "The Apprentice" television shows will also crystallize the challenge Trump faces as he looks to win over voters.

Many Americans now view him primarily as a reality TV star after 14 seasons of his "Apprentice" series, and his numerous flirtations with a presidential run -- first in 1987, then 1999 and again in 2004 and most recently in 2011 -- have left voters eye-rolling as he prompted yet another round of will-he or won't-he speculation.

He and his aides remain confident, though, that voters will take Trump seriously after he has now made his intentions clear and announces he's running.

"We can change that dynamic in 15 seconds by Mr. Trump sending out a press release saying he's running for president," Trump's top political adviser Corey Lewandowski said. "Mr. Trump's single biggest detriment is that people don't think he's going to run." But over the past several months, Trump has ramped up his political activity, making key staff hires in the early states of Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina -- including the political strategist who drove former Sen. Rick Santorum to a surprise victory in the Iowa caucus in 2012.

And even as he becomes the 12th candidate to throw

his hat into a ring that will become even more crowded before the first televised debate in August, Trump could find himself grinning on Fox News along with the rest of the top 10 candidates who made the cut.

Fox is limiting participation in the first debate to the top 10 GOP contenders based on national polling, and Trump is just on the edge based on the latest polls.

He tied for 10th place with 3% in the latest CNN/ORC poll earlier this month and earned 4% in both the most recent Fox News and Washington Post/ABC News polls -- coming in 10th and tied for ninth, respectively.

That puts Trump right in line with would-be-rivals like Santorum, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and former New York Gov. George Pataki -- and above hopefuls like Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal.

Trump will look to escape that grouping as he challenges conventional political notions of nominating a presidential candidate who's held elected office, instead calling for an end to the politics he says are heavy on talk and light on action.

Trump is no stranger to either, though.

He famously fanned the flames of the "birther" movement and today takes credit for President Barack Obama's decision to release his birth certificate -- which Trump said this year at CPAC hasn't completely quelled his concerns.

And he won't mince words when it comes to his GOP foes, either. And he may take the opportunity to draw a contrast with former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who formally announced his candidacy just a day before Trump's announcement.

Trump said earlier this year in Iowa: "The last thing we need is another Bush."

US and Venezuela praise talks aimed at LOWERING TENSION

VENEZUELA and the US on Monday praised diplomatic talks aimed at reducing tension between the two countries.

Officials from both sides met in Haiti on the weekends as part of what they called "a process of rapprochement". The US and Venezuela have not had ambassadors in each other's country since 2010. Relations have worsened since the US earlier this year imposed sanctions on a number of Venezuelan officials it accuses of human rights abuses.

'Extraordinary threat'

US President Barack Obama issued an executive order in March freezing the assets of seven Venezuelan officials and banning them from entering the United States.

He also said the situation in Venezuela, including "the government's erosion of human rights guarantees (...) constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States".

The decree caused outrage not only among Venezuelan officials but also

many Latin American leaders sensitive to what they see as US imperialist rhetoric.

The US later said that the wording was "completely pro-forma" and the US and Venezuelan presidents briefly spoke at a regional summit in Panama in April.

Tensions

But tension rose again in May after it was reported that the US federal prosecutors were gathering evidence against the president

of Venezuela's National Assembly, Diosdado Cabello.

The newspaper quoted "people familiar with the probe" as saying that several high-ranking Venezuelan officials, including Mr Cabello, were being investigated on suspicion of having "turned the country into a global hub for cocaine trafficking and money

laundering".

Mr Cabello has denied the allegations and Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said that anyone who attacked the National Assembly chief was attacking him. Mr Cabello was part of the Venezuelan delegation that met US State Department counsellor Thomas Shannon on Saturday.

He

said that it was "an important step toward the full restoration of relations between the countries". The State Department on Monday also called the talks "positive and productive". President Maduro said the two sides had "opened a very important diplomatic channel".



General Motors uses OLD VOLT BATTERIES to power office building

GENERAL Motors Co said on Tuesday it is using old batteries from its first-generation Chevrolet Volt extended-range electric car for secondary purposes including powering an office building. The company, which is close to launching the second-generation Volt hybrid plug-in car, said repurposed five used batteries from the first-generation Volt are powering the General Motors Enterprise Data Centre at its Milford Proving Ground.

"Even after the battery has reached the end of its useful life in a Chevrolet Volt, up to 80 percent of its storage capacity remains," said

Pablo Valencia, senior manager, battery life cycle management.

GM said it is working on the secondary functions of Volt batteries with partners to test systems for other commercial and non-commercial uses. In 2012, GM tested repackaged Volt batteries to provide two hours of electricity for three to five average American homes.

Unlike electric vehicle maker Tesla Motors Inc., which last month unveiled a separate product for the stationary energy market, GM is focusing on extending the economic life of a battery after its use in an electric vehicle.



Amazon considering **PAYING PEOPLE** to deliver packages

AMAZON Inc is developing a mobile application that would pay ordinary people, rather than courier companies, to deliver packages en route to other destinations, the Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday. Amazon Inc is developing a mobile application that would pay ordinary people, rather than courier companies, to deliver packages en route to other destinations, the Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday. Amazon would enlist brick-and-mortar retailers in urban areas to store the packages, likely renting space from them or paying a per-package fee, the Journal

reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

The company's timing for the service, known internally as "On My Way", could not be learned, the Journal reported. The service could give Amazon more control over the shopping experience and help limit shipping costs, the report added. Shipping costs at the Seattle-based e-commerce giant rose 31 percent in 2014, outpacing sales growth of 19.5 percent. Amazon could not immediately be reached for comment.



First Lady Michelle Obama **MEETS** With Prince Harry Over Tea during European Tour

FIRST lady Michelle Obama received the royal treatment in London on Tuesday when she met with Prince over tea at Kensington Palace on the first leg of her week-long European tour.

Kensington Palace announced the prince was "very pleased" to host the first lady, her daughters Sasha and Malia, and her mother Marian Robinson. Obama and Prince Harry discussed their mutual desire to help military families as well as the first lady's "Let Girls Learn" initiative to promote education for adolescent girls across the world. During his visit to the U.S. in 2013, the prince and first lady bonded over their work to honor veterans and their families. At the time, Prince Harry visited the White House for a "Joining Forces" event honoring military mothers. «We are absolutely thrilled that he could

be with us today,» Obama said at the time. Prince Harry served 10 years in the British armed forces, including two operational tours of duty in Afghanistan, until leaving military service this month.

The first lady's tea with Prince Harry, the first of her stops on her week-long European tour, was closed to the public. This morning, she also visited with students at the Mulberry School for Girls in London where she spoke alongside Julia Gillard, the former prime minister of Australia, about the need to expand access to education.

«There are 60 million girls all around the world, just like the girls here [at Mulberry] but they're not getting an education,» Obama said at a roundtable. «He wanted to be here to personally thank you for your service.»

Best MLB players from the Kingdom of the Netherlands

LET'S HEAR IT FOR "HONKBAL"!

That's what baseball is called in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which has produced some of baseball's best young talent. The kingdom encompasses the Netherlands, located in Western Europe, as well as a small cluster of islands in the Caribbean, including Aruba, Curaçao, and the Netherlands Antilles.

While baseball was introduced to the Netherlands way back in 1911 by English teacher J.C.G. Grasé following a visit to America -- and gained a foothold

when Dutch kids turned to American baseball in defiance of the German occupiers during World War II-- the sport remained a distant second to soccer. But it has flourished in the Dutch overseas territories.

In 2014, seven Curaçaoans alone played in the majors, which is stunning considering that Curaçao's population is approximately 170,000 -- which works out to about one major leaguer for every 21,000 residents. (By comparison, there were 83 players on 2014 Opening Day rosters from the Dominican

Republic, a nation of 10.4 million, or roughly one major leaguer per 125,000 inhabitants. For the United States, the ratio was about one to 503,000.) And baseball fever shows no signs of abating in the Netherlands. With apologies to Jack Lelivelt, an outfielder who hit .301 over a six-year career with the Washington Senators, New York Highlanders, New York Yankees and Cleveland Naps -- and Randall Simon -- known more for swatting one of the Milwaukee Brewers' sausage mascots -- here's a look at baseball's best Dutch-born players:



Xander Bogaerts

Birthplace: Oranjestad, Aruba

MLB team: Boston Red Sox

Bogaerts was discovered by a Red Sox scout at the age of 16 and signed for a \$410,000 bonus. In 2013, he became the fifth player from Aruba to play in the majors. He was called up to the majors in mid-August, then batted .296 in 12 postseason games, helping the Red Sox win their eighth World Series. Bogaerts -- who speaks fluent English, Spanish, Dutch and Papiamentu -- was inducted into the Order of Orange-Nassau by the Governor of Aruba after leading the Netherlands team to a gold medal in the Baseball World Cup in 2011.

Bert Blyleven

Birthplace: Zeist, Netherlands

MLB teams: Minnesota Twins, Texas Rangers, Pittsburgh Pirates, Cleveland Indians, California Angels

Rik Aalbert «Bert» Blyleven, one of only 12 big leaguers born in the Netherlands, is the lone Dutchman to make the Hall of Fame. Blyleven, who was raised in Garden Grove, California, was 287-250 over a 22-year career. He was elected and enshrined in the Hall in 2011. Blyleven remains only the second Hall of Famer born outside the Americas (the first, Harry Wright, was born in England in 1835).





Mariekson (Didi) Gregorius

Birthplace: Amsterdam, Netherlands

MLB teams: Cincinnati Reds, Arizona Diamondbacks, New York Yankees

After being signed by the Reds as an amateur free agent in 2007 and making the majors in 2012, Gregorius was traded away to the Diamondbacks, for whom he batted .252 in 103 games. The Yankees acquired him in a three-team trade on Dec. 5, 2014, and Gregorius stepped in as the anointed successor to former captain Derek Jeter at shortstop. (Gregorius then revealed that he's «Sir Didi,» a title that was bestowed on him in lieu of payment for him and other members of a national baseball team that won a championship in Curacao.)

Kenley Jansen

Birthplace: Willemstad, Curacao

MLB team: Los Angeles Dodgers

The Dodgers signed the 6-foot-5, 260-pound Jansen as a catcher in 2004 but converted him to a pitcher -- a move that paid off. Jansen, who can hit high 90s on the radar gun and has the most effective cutter since Mariano Rivera, blossomed into one of the most dominant closers in the game in 2013. Jansen has a 0.82 ERA with 20 strikeouts in 11 innings and nine saves this year.



Andruw Jones

Birthplace: Willemstad, Curacao

MLB teams: Atlanta Braves, Los Angeles Dodgers, Texas Rangers, Chicago White Sox and New York Yankees

Andruw Jones, a five-time All-Star and 10-time Gold Glove outfielder, remains the most famous Dutch hitter of all time. He was a .254 career hitter with 434 home runs and 1,289 RBIs over 17 seasons with the Braves, Yankees, Rangers, Dodgers and White Sox. From 1998 to 2006, Jones averaged 6.1 WAR per season. After playing two seasons for the Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles in Japan, Jones, now 37, is trying to return to the majors.



Sidney Ponson

Birthplace: Noord, Aruba

MLB teams: Baltimore Orioles, San Francisco Giants, St. Louis Cardinals, New York Yankees, Minnesota Twins, Texas Rangers, Kansas City Royals

When he arrived in the majors, Ponson, a burly Aruba native, was compared to Bartolo Colon, and Syd Thrift, then Baltimore's general manager, looked at Ponson's 97 mph fastball and labeled him «a future No. 1 pitcher.» But Ponson rarely delivered on his promise. In 2003, he won 17 games with Baltimore and San Francisco. The Orioles signed him to a \$22.5 million contract, and he responded by going 18-26 with a 5.64 ERA over the next two seasons. In 2004, Ponson was charged with punching a judge during a confrontation on a beach in Aruba. He spent time at an alcohol rehabilitation facility after two drunken-driving incidents in 2005. Over a three-year span, Ponson was released by Baltimore, St. Louis, the Yankees, Minnesota and Texas and was out of baseball by 2009.

Jonathan Schoop

Birthplace: Willemstad, Curacao

MLB team: Baltimore Orioles

Schoop has been a highly regarded prospect ever since signing with the Orioles in 2008. Schoop and Jurickson Profar were teammates on Curaçao's 2004 Little League World Series champions. Profar homered in the championship game against Thousand Oaks, California, and Schoop earned the save in relief. His brother, Sharlon Schoop, currently plays for the Bowie Baysox, the Orioles Double-A affiliate.



Jurickson Profar

Birthplace: Willemstad, Curacao

MLB team: Texas Rangers

Once the Rangers' top prospect, Profar burst onto the scene in late 2012 with the Rangers and hit a home run in his first career at-bat. Profar is versatile -- he started games in the outfield, at second base, shortstop, third base and designated hitter for the Rangers in 2013 -- but has been sidelined by injuries since. Profar underwent shoulder surgery to repair a labrum tear in his right shoulder in February and is expected to miss his second consecutive season.

Andrelton Simmons

Birthplace: Mundo Nobo, Curacao

MLB team: Atlanta Braves

Simmons was lightly scouted as a teen and attended Western Oklahoma State College, where he blossomed into a 2010 second-round Braves pick. Now in his fourth season, Simmons has emerged into a human highlight reel who astounds teammates and fans alike, leading the majors in defensive runs saved and web gems. Simmons and Bogaerts were teammates on the Dutch team that finished an impressive fourth in the 2013 World Baseball Classic. Simmons, by then a Gold Glover, played short, and Bogaerts gave way to his elder and played third base.

